(b) The Human Development Index (HDI) is a summary measure of human development. It measures the average achievements in a country in three basic dimensions of human development:

(i) A long and healthy life, as measured by the expectancy at birth.

(ii) Knowledge, as measured by the adult literacy rate (with two-thirds weight) and the combined primary, secondary and tertiar gross enrolment ratio (with one-third weight).

(iii) A decent standard of living, as measured by GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity US$). Before the HDI itself is calculated, an index needs to be created for each of these dimensions. To calculate these dimension indices - the life expectancy, education and GDP indices - minimum and maximum values (goalposts) are chosen for each underlying indictor. Performance in each dimension is expressed as a value between 0 and 1. The HDI is then calculated as simple average of the dimension indices.

(c) The Plan of action of the Government to improve the various criteria used in the Human Development Index has been incorporated in the Tenth Plan document and in the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Plan which have been placed in the Parliament Library.

Current proverty line

219. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government consider the current poverty line decided by the Planning Commission to be appropriate in the present context;

(b) whether the Planning Commission has formed an Expert Group to revise the poverty line; and

(c) if so, whether the Planning Commission has decided upon a timeframe for the implementation of the recommendations of the Expert Group?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The present concept of poverty line is based on the per capita consumption expenditure needed to attain a minimum amount of calorie intake out of food consumption along with a

minimum amount of non-food expenditure in order to meet the requirements of clothing, shelter, transport etc. The Planning Commission follows a uniform methodology for estimation of poverty across all the states. The present method used by the Planning Commission for estimation of proportion of people living below poverty line is based on the methodology recommended by the Expert Group on 'Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor[1] (Lakdawala Committee). The Expert Group, which was constituted in September 1989, submitted its Report to the Planning Commission in July, 1993. A full Planning Commission meeting chaired by the Prime Minister in March, 1997 accepted the recommendations of the Expert Group with minor modifications. Since then the estimates of poverty at National and state level are being made using the Expert Group methodology.

(b) No Sir.

(c) In view of (b) above, the question does not arise.

Regulatory framework in the country

220. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to ensure that the regulatory framework in the country is transparent, autonomous and professionally run;

(b) the status of the work done by the Planning Commission to prepare a policy paper on regulatory frame work for the infrastructure sector;

(c) the steps Government propose to undertake to ensure that appointments in such regulatory bodies are done through a transparent and fair procedure as appointments in autonomous regulatory authorities in the past have created controversies;

(d) whether Government are making rules, which ensures functional autonomy for the regulatory bodies; and

(e) in what manner Government would ensure effectiveness of Parliamentary oversight over regulatory authorities?